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TRUCK CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

F. H. Chittenden, Entomologist in Charge

J. E. Graf, in charge of field work in Mexican bean beetle control at Birmingham, Ala., has recently advised the bureau that the Mexican bean beetle has been found in Georgia along the line of the Alabama Great Southern Railway between Rising Fawn and the Alabama line.

Only small sums are at present available for quarantine and control measures by the States of Alabama and Georgia. The quarantined areas now in force will, however, be extended to include the small infestations in Tennessee and Georgia and every effort will be made to restrict the further dissemination of the beetle from these outlying points of infestation. It is probable that a branch research station will be established in the vicinity of Chattanooga for a comparison of the conditions there with those encountered at Birmingham.

R. W. Allen has been appointed to assist Neale F. Howard in the Birmingham research laboratory with regard to the chemistry of new insecticides which it is proposed to apply to the Mexican bean beetle.

The following have been appointed to act as district inspectors in connection with the enforcement of Quarantine No. 50 against the Mexican bean beetle: J. D. Waugh, F. I. Jeffrey, E. G. Small, G. B. Warren, and H. L. Weatherby.

B. L. Boyden, in charge of field work in sweet-potato weevil investigations, reports that in spite of conditions incident to the unusual season in northern Florida, such as the drought which has materially delayed draw distribution, sweet-potato planting from certified weevil-free draws is now almost completed. Only about 150,000 more draws will be required. All of the growers on infested properties have signed contracts and the outlook is exceptionally good for a successful season.

C. H. Batchelder of the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station has been reappointed to conduct cooperative experiments in the control of insects which transmit the potato mosaic disease and to make observations on other potato insects in the Aroostook County potato region. He will be stationed at Presque Isle, Maine.

E. S. Roberts has been appointed to assist M. M. High, in charge of the laboratory at Kingsville, Tex., in experimental work on truck-crop insects.

William D. Mecum has been reappointed to assist J. E. Dudley, Jr., in spraying experiments against truck-crop insects at Madison, Wis.

G. Fletcher has been appointed to assist Chas. E. Smith, Baton Rouge, La., in connection with rearing experiments.

BEE CULTURE

E. F. Phillips, Apiculturist in Charge

In cooperation with the Bureau of Chemistry an investigation is being



made of methods of preparing, for provisioning cages for mailing queenbees, candy which will conform with the regulations of the Post Office Department and which will remain soft for some time. Many hundreds of queens are now lost annually from food of poor quality. Jay H. Smith has been appointed temporarily for this work.

A. D. Shaftesbury, a graduate student at the Johns Hopkins University, has been appointed for the summer months to conduct investigations in the changes occurring in the aging of bees.

J. B. Moorman, also of Johns Hopkins, has been appointed for the summer and will assist in the effort to determine whether Tarsonemus woodi, the purported cause of the Isle of Wight disease of bees, is present in the United States. There was recently published from the University of Aberdeen the results of the work of Dr. John Remie and his associates which show the parasitic and pathogenic nature of this species.

The Census data so far issued indicate a decrease in the number of beekeepers on farms but an increase in the number of colonies of bees. Bees in towns and cities are not included in Census returns and as a result most commercial beekeepers are omitted. The increase in the number of colonies per beekeeper is quite to be expected because of the increasing tendency toward the development of specialist beekeepers.

NATIONAL MUSEUM

The National Museum has just received a fine collection of named Itonididae (Cecidomyiidae, the gall midges), a family of small flies, from Dr. E.P. Felt, State Entomologist of New York.

Part of this material was loaned to Dr. Felt some time ago for study. Dr. Felt has made a special study of this very important family of flies. He has also added quite a number of species new to the Museum collection. This collection comprises about 800 microscope slides and about 40 different kinds of galls, the work of these flies. More than half of the species represented are from the type material. There are about 270 species distributed in 71 genera, of which 174 species are represented by type material.

This collection is now about the second best in the country.

PINK BOLLWORM CONFERENCE

Fourteen cotton-growing States were represented at a conference called by the Department of Agriculture in Washington May 16 to consider the measures for eradicating the pink bollworm from the United States. The delegates attending included representatives from the

important cotton, farm, and educational associations of their States and appointees of the Governors. The report drawn up by the committee nominated by the State delegations was adopted unanimously by the conference. It was agreed that the presence of the pink bollworm within our borders is the most serious menace that has ever confronted the cotton-growing industry in this country, but that considering the present status of the pest and the evidence presented there is still a reasonable opportunity for eradicating it by following out the policy of the Department of Agriculture.

It was recommended that as this pest menaces the entire cotton-growing industry the burden of its control should be shared by the Federal Government and by the States actually infested. It was further recommended that the States provide legislation giving ample authority through the agency of non-cotton and regulated zones for such regional control as is necessary for extermination. The Texas delegates, who represented the important farming interests of that State, pledged full support in securing the necessary legislation and cooperation on the part of Texas.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

The Chief of the Bureau attended the New Jersey Antimosquito Society's Annual Convention at Atlantic City late in April, and then went to Ithaca for consultation with Professor C. R. Crosby and Professor M. D. Leonard in regard to cooperative work against the ox warble which will be begun this season in certain counties in New York. During early May he visited Mound, La., and Tallulah, La., for consultation with Capt. D. L. Van Dine and Dr. W. V. King in regard to the mosquito work at Mound, and Mr. B. R. Coad at Tallulah in regard to the cotton boll weevil campaign for the summer. Later he visited Albany and Scotia, N. Y., with Dr. E. P. Felt, Mr. D. J. Coffrey, and Dr. George G. Atwood for consultations concerning certain phases of the European corn borer investigations.

Dr. A. L. Quaintance is absent on a trip to New Orleans to organize the work against the camphor scale.

Dr. C. L. Marlatt has just returned from Manhattan, Kans., where he was given the honorary degree of Doctor of Science by the Kansas State Agricultural College.

Dr. Demetrius Borodin, formerly Chief of the Entomological Experiment Station at Poltava, Russia, has spent some weeks in Washington translating some of our publications into the Russian language for future use in Russia when conditions over there shall have become more stable. Doctor Borodin has told us much of Russian conditions and brings exact news of a number of Russian Entomologists. He is at present working at Cornell University for a short time.

Mr. F. O. Bain, one of the last graduate Carnegie students who will be sent to this country by the British Government, is expected in Washington on June 8. He has been studying since October at Cornell University and is now about to make a tour of the country. He will visit a number of the field laboratories of the Bureau and those members of the force connected with the laboratories are urged to show Mr. Bain every possible courtesy and give him full information about anything that he finds of especial interest. He will return to Cornell University for a month's additional study for submitting a thesis for a Masters' Degree and will then return to England. He expects eventually to work in South Africa.

LIBRARY

Mabel Colcord, Librarian

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